

The Baptist Record

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They had a mind to work...

Lamar ministry center a tribute to volunteer spirit

Several years ago Doug Benedict, director of missions (DOM) for Lamar Association, lay in a Dallas hospital, waiting for a liver transplant.

Expenses mounted as he was forced to maintain a residence near Hattiesburg and one in Dallas. He heard the house in Hattiesburg was leaking. Flat on his back, there was nothing to do but pray. The next Saturday, 83 Baptist laymen drove to his Hattiesburg home and — in four and half hours — put a new roof on it.

Benedict eventually received his new liver and returned to the work he loves.

Lamar Association, as one deacon said, is the "volunteering-est" place on earth. The statement may not be an idle boast. This relative-

ly small association (with 19 churches) has sponsored 13 mission trips involving 191 people in the last 10 years.

They built a church in Brazil. Construction teams have gone to Montana. Five times, teams have gone to California, and three times to Arizona. Add to those, trips to construct buildings in Colorado, Florida, and Wyoming.

Of the 191 participants, 40 have gone once, 38 have gone twice, 16 have made three trips, 12 have gone four times, nine made five trips, three went seven times, two have gone eight times, and one man has gone nine times. This group indeed has a mind to work.

The volunteers have performed over 10,700 man hours in labor; the estimated cost of this alone is



Fay Donegan, member of Oral Church, is a volunteer in the Lamar Association Mission Center.

over \$100,000.

In addition to labor, they have donated \$25,000 to the Brazilian church and to a Montana project.

Nor have they neglected "home missions" in the 13-year span of Doug Benedict's service as DOM.

Last April the Lamar Association Mission Center was dedicated. The building is arguably second to none in the state. It houses the associational offices, food pantry, clothes closet, counseling center, prayer room, and conference/assembly halls — all staffed (with the exception of the associational offices) by volunteers. The appraised value of the building is \$320,000; its actual cost was \$195,683.

Volunteers, an automatic attitude in Lamar, were involved from the beginning. Richard Miley, pastor at Richburg for 18 years, was the building superintendent. Richburg Church has sent out 53 team workers in the past 10 years.

The social ministry of Lamar

Association is extremely productive. Last year it assisted 493 people (157 families) with food. There were 257 people who received clothing, 425 who received personal items, and the gospel was presented to many of these people. A local pastor was informed of recipients who lived near his church.

Ray Grissett, former director of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Cooperative Missions Department, was the foster missionary for seven years before Benedict was called. Grissett laid the foundation and Benedict, even with the added burden of a liver transplant, continued to build on it.

Benedict said, "We are thankful to God and to those who volunteered their talent and time, to those who gave, and for all demonstrations of support."

Harold Hartfield is mission coordinator for the association. He has made 10 mission trips and

declared, "I can't preach or sing, but I found something I could do. It has been the highlight of my life. Mission work is stressed in our church and in the association, and it spreads from church to church. Thank God for the experiences I've had in this." — GH



Doug Benedict is Lamar Association director of missions.



The Hattiesburg local pipefitters' union did all plumbing work for the new Lamar Association Mission Center, dedicated in April. Among the volunteers who worked without charge were (left to right) Ronnie Nicholas, Glenn Nightengal, Walter Ellington, A.S. Clemons, and Floyd Purvis.

Alcohol & advertising

The decline in alcohol advertising in the U.S. since 1986 has apparently been accompanied by parallel declines in alcohol consumption and several alcohol-related social problems — including traffic fatalities and high school binge drinking, according to the Center for Science in the Public Interest (CSPI). The Washington, DC-based non-profit group has issued a 24-page report, **Double Dip: The Simultaneous Decline of Alcohol Advertising and Alcohol Problems in the United States**, that details the group's conclusions. The CSPI report alleges, however, that alcohol advertising remains "pervasive," targeting young people and heavy drinkers. The report calls on the U.S. Congress to eliminate tax deductions for alcohol advertising, ban advertising aimed at young people and heavy drinkers, and require broadcasters to balance alcohol ads with abstinence messages. Copies of the CSPI report are available for \$5 each by writing to CSPI-DD, 1875 Connecticut Avenue NW, Suite 300, Washington, DC 20009.

Alcohol & gambling

The President Casino in Biloxi has reached an out-of-court settlement that may signal increased liability for gambling operations that ply patrons with booze while they are gambling. The casino's insurance company agreed to pay \$2.5 million to the estate of Terri Kay Barber, a single mother of two who was killed in September 1993 by a drunk driver who allegedly consumed free alcoholic drinks while gambling at the casino. Attorneys for the estate claim they uncovered testimony that the casino's policy of cutting off drunken patrons was being overridden by floor supervisors and pit bosses, who based their decisions on how much a patron was gambling. Lawyers for the casino deny the allegation. However, Richard Nelson's blood alcohol content was still more than double the legal limit when he collided with Barber nearly an hour after leaving the casino. He is presently serving a 20-year sentence in connection with her death. Ironically, the wreck occurred across the state line in Alabama, which is fighting the introduction of similar gambling operations.

Looking Back...

10 years ago

The 13th annual Campers on Mission national rally is held in Kosciusko, featuring a huge Mississippi-raised catfish supper for the 400 participants from 14 states who combine their love of camping with Christ's Great Commission.

20 years ago

The Mississippi Broadcasters Association expresses interest in "News Scope," a new five-minute radio newscast from the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board that will highlight Baptist work across the state.

50 years ago

A memorial service is held for ministerial student Patrick Henry Wilkinson, among the first to leave Mississippi College to volunteer for World War II. He was shot down over Germany near the war's end and leaves behind a wife and baby daughter.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

The acceptable industry

The public relations department of the gambling industry is doing a better job than all of the anti-gambling forces in the state. They have convinced a majority of the citizens that gambling "pays its way" and is good for the state.

Tax dollars are rolling in to fill the coffers of local counties where there is gambling. The state has collected upward of \$200 million for taxes on the gambling industry.

Mississippi is building new four-lane highways from Memphis to the Delta, and what looks like a 22-story hotel is almost completed in Gulfport. Newspapers, for the most part, are overjoyed at the amount of advertisements and will hardly speak a critical word.

High-rollers, big winners, and names with faces aglow, adorn the billboards and brochures. Deeds of loving-kindness are calculated to show what good citizens we have welcomed into our midst.

Not wanting to leave out the Native Americans, we also have the Choctaw nation sponsoring not a stick-ball contest, but a huge casino.

Highways are crowded and

hotel accommodations can be scarce on the weekends.

"Hey, hey preacher! You've been left out again and wrong on every count. Folks like it. Money is rolling in. Tax coffers are full; there are many people newly-employed; and it's the age to let the good times roll. If you can't enjoy it, at least don't cast a pall over the anointed tables."

Even Alabama, Oklahoma, and Texas are eager to get into the casino business. Concerned citizens led by pastors and others are doing their best to keep it out.

Americans are coming dangerously close to worshipping the golden calf. Our worship halls are glitzy, comfortable, and have full facilities for the children. The wheels of fortune are taking in the offerings and the shrieks of the winners provide the special music.

Some 80% of Americans gamble — and what a religious bunch — 43% say they attended church in the past week.

Christianity Today magazine said Americans wagered \$17.3 billion in 1976 and \$329.9 billion in 1992 — a whopping 1800% increase. Interestingly enough, of this \$330 billion wagered, how much did they win? They won

back \$35 billion — slightly more than a tithe. Few finders-keepers and many losers-weepers. Luck is the new god and greed makes the appeal.

What's the bottom line? It's bound to be good; look at the new jobs, the happy winners, the casinos helping in community projects.

Gambling moved into Atlantic City and four years later, the crime rate had tripled. U.S. News & World Report observed that gambling came to Tunica County, and the number of people unable to pay their rent there doubled, while drunk driving increased 500%. New chapters for compulsive gamblers are springing up like billboards on the interstate.

There was a time when gambling was considered a social deviancy. It was the evil machine seeking to make society its victim. Slowly the stigma is vanishing and this "acceptable industry" will now lead us to the Promised Land.

The SBC Christian Life Commission has quoted Alabama Governor Fob James as saying, "Casino gambling morally, socially, and economically is a failure." Is Mississippi willing to bet that he is wrong?

Evangelism campaign in Haifa, Israel, was the "best ever"

HAIFA, Israel (BP) — Forty-five Israelis prayed to accept Jesus Christ as Savior during a three-day evangelistic campaign in Haifa, Israel.

Messianic Jewish believers who organized the effort said it was the biggest campaign with the most results since such efforts began by Jewish believers a decade ago.

Campaigns with this number of decisions would not be news in many places, but this is Israel, where resistance to the gospel is high.

Leaders were cautious about statistics from the campaign, which ended June 18. They said it was the first time those 45 people had prayed in the name of Jesus, the Messiah. Only after a well organized follow-up program ends will the actual number of lasting decisions be known, they said.

During the campaign 200 Israeli believers and Christian workers, including several Southern Baptists, organized themselves into 14 teams. They shared the gospel with about 600

people in Haifa, a coastal city in northern Israel.

That record number also was considered a victory, since few Israelis have heard the full gospel unmarred by traditional distortions. Leaders were also elated that almost 100 Israelis provided their addresses for future follow-up.

"This is the best campaign we've ever had in every way," said Avi Mizrachi, an Israeli who coordinates evangelism among Jewish believers. Haifa's population of a quarter of a million people includes Jews, Arabs, and Russian immigrants. Workers included believers from all three backgrounds.

They met at a Messianic Jewish conference center in Haifa for training and prayer before hitting the streets, united by their common faith in Jesus as Messiah. "We were in one heart united," Mizrachi said.

One campaign worker was taken in by Haifa police for questioning but later released. Two teams said city workers tried to intimidate them into

stopping their witnessing by claiming it's illegal in Israel. But team members declined to stop, answering that several Israeli court decisions have ruled street evangelism legal. Campaign leaders said such harassment has declined in recent years, although Orthodox Jews opposed to Christian outreach still present problems in some places.

Workers also distributed more than 300 copies of the New Testament or gospel portions. Each team member was sent out with shoulder bags well stocked with materials in Hebrew, Arabic, or Russian.

Mizrachi would not say revival is near in the troubled nation, but said he believes God has something big in the works for Israel.

"I believe we're seeing the first sparks of what God wants to do in this country," he said. "This is definitely the time and the situation is good. Israel is ready."

Many Israelis are worried about how the peace process is

"I JUST GOT SAVED, MY WIFE LOVES ME, THE BOSS GAVE ME A RAISE, AND MY PREACHER GETS BETTER EVERY SUNDAY."



THE FRAGMENTS

Nothing but numbers

Unsure as to the real amount of a billion, I looked it up in the dictionary. "A very large number" was the revealing answer. While growing up, I thought George Nasser, who owned the Lorena Country Store, was the richest man in the world — but now we are talking mega-bucks.

A letter to Ann Landers helped to explain the amount of a "trillion" (the national debt — at that time — was \$4.7 trillion):

"If you were to count a trillion one-dollar bills, one per second, 24 hours a day, it would take 32 years.

"Or, to put it differently, it has been figured that, with 1 trillion dollars, you could buy a \$100,000 house for every family in Kansas."

Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma, and Iowa.

"Then you could put a \$10,000 car (boy, that was a long time ago) in the garage of each one of those houses. There would be enough left to build 10 million-dollar libraries and 10 million-dollar hospitals for 250 cities in those states. There would be enough left over to build 10 million-dollar schools for 500 communities."

"And there would still be enough left to put in the bank and, from the interest alone, pay 10,000 nurses and teachers, plus give a \$5,000 bonus to every family in those states."

See the point? Webster was right. It is a very large number.

going for their nation, especially on the question of giving up the Golan Heights, he said. "The people are nervous. Many of them are searching. Terrorism has not decreased. It has increased. God is telling us to get ready, ready to evangelize, ready to disciple, and ready to see growth in our congregations."

More than three dozen Messianic Jewish congregations are scattered across Israel and estimates of the number of believers range as high as 6,000. The congregations are mostly small and autonomous and meet mostly in homes. But many have developed house fellowships, extending their impact through communities.

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Religious groups scramble to assess church-state ruling

WASHINGTON (ABP) — Religious and civil-liberties groups are scrambling to assess the impact of the U.S. Supreme Court's June 29 ruling that a state university cannot use separation of church and state as a reason to deny student funds to religious groups.

In a narrow 5-4 ruling, the high court said the state-supported University of Virginia's policy of denying religious groups access to student activity funds is neither commanded nor justified by the First Amendment's requirement of church-state separation.

The university's policy was challenged by Ronald Rosenberg and other students who wanted student funds to pay for printing their Christian publication, *Wide Awake*. Lower courts said subsidizing the publication would violate church-state separation, but the Supreme Court, in an opinion written by Justice Anthony Kennedy, disagreed.

Given the range of assessments from church-state specialists, it may be some time before it becomes clear how much the court's ruling will alter the nation's church-state landscape.

Baptist Joint Committee General Counsel Brent Walker called the decision "a sad day for religious liberty."

WMU to expand product line with CBF-related materials

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) — Woman's Missionary Union announced July 12 it will produce "missions education supplements" for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

The supplements, according to WMU, will "accompany selected existing WMU materials for churches wanting to study the work of missionaries appointed by the Foreign and Home Mission boards and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship."

The announcement comes a week before the CBF's annual General Assembly, July 19-22 in Fort Worth — and less than a month after the Southern Baptist Convention formally added an affirmation of WMU to the sweeping denominational restructuring adopted June 20 in Atlanta.

WMU's decision to produce the new materials, to be available for every age level by early 1996, follows actions adopted by its executive board in January 1993, one of which states WMU will "produce resources for Southern Baptist groups involved in missions at

"For the first time in our nation's history, the Supreme Court has sanctioned funding of religion with public funds," he said. "Although Madison and Jefferson won their battle against state-subsidized religion in the 18th century, they lost in the Supreme Court today."

Walker criticized the majority's reliance on the fact that the university would pay an outside contractor for printing and that no money would go to the student club.

"This is a distinction without a difference," he said. "It's like saying, 'We won't give you money, but we'll pay your bills.' The economic reality is the same."

Barry Lynn, executive director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State, called the ruling "a miserable decision."

"Evangelism should be supported by the voluntary donations of the faithful, not extracted forcibly from other Americans who don't share their beliefs," he said. "Christians at a university have every right to evangelize through publications, but they shouldn't be allowed to pick other students' pockets to pay for it."

Richard Land, executive director of the Christian Life Commission, took a different view. "I am delighted that at least five Supreme Court justices agree with

our conviction and contention that the First Amendment not only doesn't require discrimination against religious expression but in fact protects religious expression and guarantees it equal treatment under the laws of the land," he said. "All the students at the University of Virginia were asking is that religious groups be treated no differently than other student groups. That's the Baptist way and the American way."

"The decision in this case

makes clear that this court is certainly not hostile to religion," Walker said. "If anything it is too helpful in Rosenberger. There is no need for a new 'religious equality' constitutional amendment."

Jay Sekulow, chief counsel of Pat Robertson's American Center for Law and Justice, called the ruling "a major victory for religious freedom."

"We have crossed a critical threshold in the fight for religious liberty." The message of the

court's ruling, Sekulow said, is that "religious speech or speakers must be treated exactly the same way as any other group."

Sekulow said the opinion will have an impact on other church-state issues, including subsidizing tuition vouchers for religious schools.

"The same concept applies," he said. "Religious discrimination is wrong whether the target is a school newspaper or a school voucher."

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

The Baptist Record

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Youth Night '95 scheduled for Jackson stadium July 28

An outstanding lineup of speakers and singers will kick off Youth Night 1995 at 7 p.m. on

Friday, July 28, 1995, in Mississippi Memorial Stadium on North State Street in Jackson.

Duffy Robbins, youth ministry consultant at Eastern College in St. Davids, Penn., will be the featured speaker. He is a regular contributor to youth ministry publications and has spoken at youth retreats, conventions, and workshops. His international ministry includes audiences in Australia, New Zealand, Europe, and Haiti.

Kathy Troccoli of Nashville, vocalist for such Christian hit songs as "My Life is in Your Hands" and "Mission of Love," will deliver her strong musical message of faith in Christ.

Mississippi's own Kindred Heart, known for their worship-participation style of musical performance, will also be on hand.

Admission is free, and no reservations are required. A love offering

will be taken. Soft drinks and snacks will be available at the stadium.

Sign language interpretation will be provided for the hearing-impaired.

Normal July temperatures are expected, so participants should dress accordingly and appropriately. No alcoholic beverages, tobacco products, illegal drugs, radios, or taping equipment will be permitted in the stadium. Security will be provided.

Young people are encouraged to bring friends who are unsaved or inactive in their Christian life.

Youth Night is an annual event sponsored by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) through the Cooperative Program. Matt Buckles, consultant in the MBCB Church Administration/Pastoral Ministries Department, is serving as event chairman for 1995.



Robbins



Troccoli



Kindred Heart

Mississippi gifts to CP up 4%

Mississippi Baptists gave a total of \$1,925,062 through the Cooperative Program in June, according to Bill Causey, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, which distributes the funds. Allocations are determined yearly by messengers to the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

Total 1995 giving is \$11,797,144, which is \$539,787 or 4.79%, more than that given in the first half of 1994.

Pro rata giving is ahead of budget requirements. Half the budget of \$22,606,579 would be \$11,303,290. That means that giving is \$493,855, or 4.37%, ahead.

"In addition," she continued, "our magazines, including our new **Missions Mosaic** along with **Dimension, Accent, Aware, Discovery, GA World, Share**, and **Start**, will include information on Foreign and Home Mission board-appointed missionaries only." The supplements, she explained, will be designed to accompany WMU's coed missions education materials, which like the periodicals named above, center on the work of FMB and HMB missionaries. Churches wanting to include the CBF-related information in their missions education programs would have to order the coed materials and the supplements in order to have a blended plan, she said.



Gulfshore summer staff

The 1995 Gulfshore Assembly summer staff members are: (front to back, from left) first row, Allison Lamber, Melissa Morgan, Kristie Godwin, Kyle Cannon, Paige Harrington; second row, Jennifer Colburn, Dana Harwick, Heather Smith, John Shupe; third row, Tracy Brannon, Karen Coghlan, Reid Vance, Tim Carley; fourth row, Jonathan Austin, coordinator Christy Carley, Stephen Byrd; fifth row, Debbie McCabe, and Bobby Daniel. Not pictured is Chris Walters.

WMU slates CLT, ALT training conferences for July, early August

A Church Leadership Training (CLT) Conference for Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) will be held July 31-August 3 at Camp Garaywa in Clinton. Training will be offered for all leaders in Mission Friends, Girls in Action, Acteens, Women on Mission, and general WMU programs.

Those attending will have a choice of one day session or one night session.

Day sessions are planned for Tuesday, August 1; Wednesday, August 2; and Thursday, August 3. Day sessions will begin at 9:30 a.m. and conclude at 2 p.m. Lunch will be available for \$5.

Night sessions will be held on Monday, July 31, and Thursday, August 3. Night sessions will begin at 6:30 p.m. and conclude at 9 p.m.

No reservations are required.

New materials will be available at the Baptist Book Store display.

An Associational Leadership Training (ALT) Conference will be conducted at Camp Garaywa on August 4-5.

Registration begins at 4 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 4, followed by a 5 p.m. banquet honoring Ashley McCaleb, longtime state WMU consultant who will retire in September of this year.

The Friday evening session after the banquet will feature a general overview and cultural awareness conference, plus other special surprises.

Sessions on Saturday, August 5 will include Mission Friends, Girls in Action, Acteens, Women on Mission, and general WMU programs. The conference will

end with lunch at 11:30 a.m. on Saturday.

Reservations for the ALT Conference are required. Cost is \$23 per person, which includes overnight lodging and meals. For those who will not be staying overnight, cost of meals will be \$5 per meal.

For more information on the conferences or to receive a registration form, contact Mississippi WMU, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800, or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

Pastor Stancil dies at age 87

Ryburn Stancil, a member of First Church, Brookhaven, died of cancer July 16 in the King's Daughters Hospital in Brookhaven. He was 87.

A native of Garner, N.C., Stancil was a longtime pastor of churches in North Carolina and Virginia before retiring and moving to Mississippi.

Funeral services were held July 18 at First Church, Brookhaven, followed by burial in the Terry Cemetery in Hinds County.

Stancil is survived by his wife Helen of Brookhaven; stepsons David Savel of Houston, Texas, and Randall Savel of Sylva, N.C.; stepdaughter Anne McGee of Carson; seven step-grandchildren; two brothers; three nephews, and a niece.

Reunion lets SBCNet users match faces with old friends

ATLANTA (BP) — They called it a reunion. They greeted each other with hugs and cries of delight. But most of them had never met before — at least not in person. They had met on the "net."

Whatever other folks may mean when they talk about the net, Gerald Steffy, Michael Allen, minister of music at 15th Avenue Church, Meridian; Michelle Adkins, and friends mean SBCNet, the CompuServe forum for Southern Baptists sponsored by the Baptist Sunday School Board. After months or years of corresponding with each other, they made plans for a two-hour reunion at the SBCNet booth in the Southern Baptist Convention exhibit hall June 20.

Adkins, who is director of volunteer ministries at Edwards Road Church, Greenville, S.C., said she has found SBCNet a valuable tool for her work in innovative ministry in multi-family housing. Because Barbara Oden, an expert who lives in New York, is on the net, Adkins explained, she can ask her questions about what has been done, what works, and what doesn't.

Steffy, director of missions for the Metro Peoria Association in Illinois, is proof SBCNet isn't limited to younger generations. Most nights you'll find him on the net from 9 p.m. to midnight — later if he becomes involved in a counseling session that needs to continue.

On the other hand, Allen is young enough to take computers for granted.

Allen appreciates the up-to-date prayer requests and answers he can find on the Foreign Mission Board's CompassionNet library. Where he once used prayer requests several months

old from Brotherhood magazines for the church's monthly Brotherhood prayer breakfast, he can now provide current requests. Having been on four volunteer mission trips to Wales, he was especially delighted to run across a request from missionaries he knew there. They asked prayer that they would be able to secure a building for holiday Bible Clubs. He was even more pleased a few days later to see that their prayers had been answered.

Allen talks about the way Greek served as a common language throughout the Roman Empire in the first century and says SBCNet is similar in its ability to link people throughout the world.

Greg Burton, pastor of South Jefferson Church in Louisville, Ky., has friends who are missionaries to Kenya and Brazil. He thinks the network will help them

ease loneliness, arrange for volunteer teams, and get information not available where they work. His friend Don Dixon just took a computer back to Brazil. Burton anticipates setting up a regular time to meet on a forum.

Allen believes SBCNet serves a similar function for many pastors in the United States. He and others noted that a disproportionate number of users come from states like California, Illinois, and Alaska where Southern Baptists are fewer and loneliness for fellow believers is sometimes a problem.

But the problem isn't limited to pioneer areas. "It (SBCNet) builds a bridge," said Allen. "Too many times in ministry, we don't have those bridges. The Lord's blessed me with a really good church, but a lot of ministers don't have anyone to talk to. Here they have someone who understands."

Longtime south Mississippi pastor Yates dies at age 62

Funeral services were held July 3 at First Church, Foxworth, for James L. Yates, 62. Yates died July 1 at Methodist Hospital in Hattiesburg as a result of injuries sustained in a June 14 automobile accident.

Ladell Blanton and Bill Nobles officiated at the funeral services. Burial followed in Holly Springs Cemetery in Marion County, where Chaplain Robert Rogers and a group from Fort Rucker, Ala., conducted graveside services.

Yates was a pastor for almost 35 years. His former south Mississippi pastorates included: Holly Springs and Emmanuel churches,

Marion County; Bellevue, Hattiesburg; Fayette; Union, Smith County; and Jupiter and Fellowship churches in Simpson County.

He retired in May after 11 years as a counselor for the Columbia Training School.

Yates had also served as a chaplain in the U.S. Army National Guard for over 30 years, having attained the rank of colonel. He was an active member of the Mississippi Baptist Chaplains' Association from its inception.

Survivors include: his wife Audrey; a daughter, Jan Thornhill; a son, Shawn; a sister, Aileen Douglas; and two grandchildren.



Discipleship champions awarded

Mose Dangerfield (in photos above), director of the Discipleship and Family Ministries Department for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, recently presented awards to two individuals in recognition of their contributions to Discipleship Training (DT) work.

Glen Williams (right, in left photo), director of missions for Pike Association, was chosen as the recipient of the 1995 "Friend of Discipleship Training Award." This award is given each year at the Associational Leadership Training Meeting by the Discipleship and

Family Ministry Department.

Ken Walters (left, in right photo), Monroe Association's DT director, received the 1995 associational DT award for outstanding work in a number of areas. Points are earned toward this award by having a full DT team, training the team, planning with the team, conducting associational events, and for reporting progress. Walters also serves as the Area 4 (including the Starkville/Columbus area) DT representative. Walters is pictured with Dangerfield.

Former Vietnam missionaries relive joy, pain of service time

FRANKLIN, N.C. (BP) — Easter weekend, 1975. Artillery shells rip Danang as the North Vietnamese army reaches the city's outskirts. Southern Baptist missionaries Bob Davis and Gene Tunnell watch in dismay from a freighter edging into the South China Sea with a cargo of 5,000 terrified souls.

Within days, South Vietnam falls. Tens of thousands of panic-stricken refugees clog the airports and seaports, desperate to escape the communist onslaught. And the door slams shut on Southern Baptist missions in Vietnam, a door open all too briefly, 1959 to 1975.

Thirty-two former Vietnam missionaries relived that abrupt, painful departure — and dozens of happier memories — in their first reunion since Saigon fell 20 years ago. Accompanied by family members, they met June 22-24 about three weeks before the United States announced reopening of full diplomatic relations with Vietnam.

Cloistered at a retreat center in the foothills of North Carolina's Smoky Mountains, they renewed friendships, enjoyed Vietnamese food, sorted through old photographs, sang Christian songs in Vietnamese, and talked about the hole that the evacuation left in their hearts.

"Leaving was like losing all your family at once," said Dottie Hayes of Lafayette, La. "It was a crushing experience. It took us a long time to get over it." She and her husband Herman, the first Southern Baptist missionaries to South Vietnam, arrived there Nov. 1, 1959.

The Vietnam the former missionaries remember is not the war-ravaged country most Americans saw on the evening news.

Their new friends welcomed the gospel. By the time the Americans were forced to leave, 50 Vietnamese Baptist churches had 3,000 members. Thirty-five mission personnel had set up a seminary, media and publication work, and various human-needs ministries.

"Leaving was like losing all your family at once. It was a crushing experience. It took us a long time to get over it."

**— Dottie Hayes,
Lafayette, La.**

Their work touched not only Vietnamese, but also American servicemen, who by the spring of 1969 numbered 543,000.

Some powerful memories of how God worked in Vietnam from 1959-75 are in a new book, **Stories That Won't Go Away**, published by New Hope. The 100 recollections, by 24 women of the Vietnam mission, relive the best and hardest experiences of those 16 years — and the lessons God taught through them.

One result of the retreat was an agreement to form a prayer network to support the work of South-

ern Baptists currently in Vietnam, said former Vietnam missionary Lewis Myers, now Foreign Mission Board vice president for World A strategies.

Many also expressed interest in another form of prayer ministry gaining in popularity — the prayer pilgrimage.

Former Vietnam missionaries Jim and Mary Humphries of San Marcos, Texas, will lead a prayer pilgrimage in March 1996 that will begin in Hanoi and conclude in Saigon (now Ho Chi Minh City) on Easter Sunday. Participants will travel to locations that bear strategic significance for spreading the gospel and pray for the people of Vietnam and the witness of Vietnamese Baptists.

The following 32 former Vietnam missionaries attended the reunion: Ron and Betty Merrell, Fultondale, Ala.; David and Barbara Wigger, Lilburn, Ga.; Herman and Dottie Hayes, Lafayette, La.; **Doug Kellum, Tutwiler, Miss.**; Bill and Audrey Roberson, Shelby, N.C.; Gene and Prissy Tunnell, Franklin, N.C.; Jim and Barbara Lassiter, Irmo, S.C.; Jim and Paulette Kellum, Bartlett, Tenn.; Joe and Gloria Turman, Jackson, Tenn.; Rosalie Beck, Waco, Texas; Bob and Ida Davis, Athens, Texas; Jim and Margaret Gayle, Denton, Texas; Jim and Mary Humphries, San Marcos, Texas; Sam and Marion Longbottom, Waco, Texas; Peyton and Celia Moore, Beaumont, Texas; Sam and Rachel James, Richmond, Va.; and Lewis and Toni Myers, Richmond, Va.

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Andersons in Atlanta

Ken Anderson (back, left), pastor of Parkway Church, Clinton, along with wife Candy (back, right), son Brennan (front, left) and daughter Brecken (front, center) tour the exhibit hall at the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting June 20-22 in Atlanta. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

School religious rights guidelines to be sent

WASHINGTON (BP) — Declaring the First Amendment "does not convert our schools into religion-free zones," President Bill Clinton announced an initiative by his administration to provide guidelines on religious expression to every public school district in the country before the start of the fall term.

While the president did not express an opinion on a proposed "religious equality amendment," administration officials said after Clinton's July 12 speech he opposes such a proposal.

In a 39-minute speech on the state of religious liberty in the country, Clinton said some school officials and parents mistakenly believe the Constitution "forbids any religious expression at all in public schools" and some Americans believe the government has an "anti-religious bias."

"I am deeply troubled that so many Americans feel that their faith is threatened by the mechanisms that are designed to protect their faith," he said, according to a transcript of his speech.

"Americans feel that instead of celebrating their love for God in public, they're being forced to hide their faith behind closed doors. That's wrong. But some Americans have been denied the right to express their religion, and that has to stop."

"When the First Amendment is invoked as an obstacle to private expression of religion it is being misused," he said. "It's especially important that parents feel confident that their children can practice religion. Wherever and whenever the religious rights of children are threatened or suppressed we must move quickly to correct it."

While he called the occasions rare, Clinton acknowledged some

students have been prevented from reading the Bible silently in study hall, some students have been stopped while praying over lunch and some student religious organizations have been prohibited from publicizing their meetings.

Under the First Amendment, the president said, the following religious expressions are allowed in schools: private prayer by students; individual prayers over lunch; at times, students praying together aloud; equal treatment of student religious clubs; individual reading of the Bible or other religious books; teaching about religion; student expression of religious beliefs in homework and class presentations; the right to distribute religious literature; the right to wear T-shirts with religious messages if shirts with other messages are allowed; and values advocacy.

The president should be commended "for his willingness to wade into the debate about the proper role of religion in the schools," said James A. Smith, the SBC Christian Life Commission's director of government relations.

"He should also be commended for giving a quite eloquent defense of the importance of religious liberty. It's obvious that he holds strong convictions about religious liberty and that he is personally conversant with the subject," Smith said.

CLC Executive Director Richard Land said, "The president has clearly taken a step in the right direction on the religious liberty issue. Whatever his motivation, his speech and his memorandum to the attorney general and the secretary of education will have the effect of allowing more students to exercise more individual religious freedom on public school property in the coming school year."

Japanese Baptist woman reunites with Hollandale couple, construction team

Akemi Yoshinaga, a member of Midori Green Pastures Baptist Church in Higashi-Hiroshima, Japan, visited the United States in May.

While in the U.S., she stayed in the Hollandale home of Joe and Catherine Heranney, who helped construct a new building for the Midori Green Pastures Church last year.

While in Hollandale, Yoshinaga had an opportunity to meet again the Mississippi team members who spent six weeks working on the Japanese church building: the Heranneys and Sam Dees of Hollandale; E.L. and Theo Bennett and Jesse White of Cleveland; Joe Crowe and Dan Butler of Vicksburg; Cecil Lee of Yazoo City; Olif

Matthews of Florence; and Charles Hughes of Natchez. Sinurd Thorn of Fulton was also a team member, but was unable to attend the reunion.

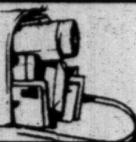
Yoshinaga reported to the group that the membership of Midori Green Pastures — which was 20 last year — has doubled since the congregation moved into its new facility.



Midori Green Pastures Baptist Church, Higashi-Hiroshima, Japan



Akemi Yoshinaga



Letters to the editor



Letters to the Editor policy

Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.

All correspondence is subject to editing. Letters must be limited to 250 words.

No more than one letter will be printed during a three-month period from any individual. Each correspondent must include an address and the name of his or her church.

When in the judgment of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with that subject will be terminated.

In special instances, when to identify the writer of a letter might cause undue embarrassment, the name will be withheld.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks.

Concern misplaced

Editor:

With regard to (Michael) Clingenpeel's "Guest Opinion" column in the June 22 issue of **The Baptist Record**: He was concerned about the Christian Coalition's support of voucher programs and tuition tax credits for private and church-affiliated schools. I share his concern. Any program that will funnel tax monies into religious schools should be avoided like the plague. Government funds require government oversight, something most private schools were founded to escape.

However, I must question the nature of Clingenpeel's concern for his tax money. He said he does not want his tax dollars "used to educate children in doctrines and belief systems we cannot endorse." Is he unfamiliar with the doctrines of the religion of secular humanism? Has he never heard of the theory of evolution? (Which is taught as undisputed fact.) Does he endorse sex-education curriculum which ignores traditional moral values? We have been paying for these educational doctrines for years. And to our shame, we have largely done it with our mouths shut.

In 1965, the Johnson Administration dramatically expanded the federal role in education. We were promised big bucks and big results.

So we sold our public schools and the children in them. What have we received in return? A generation of children who don't know the Ten Commandments, but are experts on "safe sex" and "alternative lifestyles." God forgive us.

Mrs. Milton West
Brookhaven

Hasn't been duped

Editor:

The **Baptist Record** recently published a "Guest Opinion" from Michael Clingenpeel. I take offense at his assertion that I have been "snookered" because I agree with the 10 point plan of the Christian Coalition's "Contract with the American Family."

Clingenpeel did not cite whether he agreed or disagreed with ending federal funding of abortion, restricting child pornography, or ending government funding of so-called art. His opinion is curiously mute on almost all of the contract's 10-point plan.

Clearly, however, he is opposed

to school choice, allowing parents, regardless of their financial hardships, the right to send their children to the schools of their choice. Clingenpeel is offended that his tax dollars will go toward sending children to "fundamentalist, Catholic, Jewish, Islamic, or Mormon schools." May I remind Clingenpeel that all of these people pay taxes, too? Basically, with school choice, Jewish taxpayers, Catholic taxpayers, Baptist taxpayers, etc., would find for the first time that they are not being forced to pay for a godless public school system that they do not want to use. Imagine Baptist children from low to modest income families finally being able to attend schools where Jesus is not censored.

Even putting the school choice issue aside, I am amazed that a Baptist journalist was more compelled to criticize than to compliment the Christian Coalition's plan. The government takes a substantial percentage of the earnings of its Christian citizens. We are entitled to have our views represented. The "Contract with the American Family" is a very good place to start.

Karen Blakeney
Gulfport

Agenda vs. freedom

Editor:

Your (June 22) "Guest Opinion" by (Michael) Clingenpeel (of **The Religious Herald**) of Virginia opposes the "Contract with the American Family" because he states that the Christian Coalition purports to state the "official Christian position." This is poppycock. They make no such attempt. Would he rather no Christian group speak up? Obviously so. He condemns the school voucher program, the only effective way to help our children escape the godless secular humanism taught in the public schools. He is silent on the other nine points of the contract, so I must assume he does not support them either. Clingenpeel, unfortunately, personifies the bureaucrats who have dug into the religious establishment, taken their money, and pursued an agenda inimical to principles of religious and personal freedom.

G.W. Pope
Brandon

Thanks for the help

Editor:

We have received a check in the

amount of \$4,424.51 (to aid Oklahomans in the aftermath of the April bombing of the Murrah Federal Building) from Mississippi Baptists, and we are overwhelmed by your love and generosity. We are grateful for every prayer and for the many expressions of concern. While it is difficult to imagine any good resulting from this tragedy, the outpouring of love by caring persons all across our nation and around the world is encouraging and comforting.

Thank you again for your prayers. The many families who lost loved ones and the hundreds of people who were injured in the explosion will continue to need our prayers for a long time to come, as will the scores of rescue and recovery workers whose lives were affected by their involvement in this operation.

In the aftermath of this catastrophe we still have so much for which to be grateful.

William G. Tanner
Executive director-treasurer
Baptist General Convention
of Oklahoma

Aided quick recovery

Editor:

Recovery from our New Orleans area flood of May 8 and 9 is well underway. We appreciate the prayers and support of Mississippi Baptists. Volunteers came to help clean and repair our churches, prepare food at disaster kitchens, and the Mississippi Child Care team came to care for children whose parents were filing for assistance. This is a special ministry, and we rejoice in having met this team.

We are grateful that the cooperative work of Southern Baptists helped make our recovery quick and that the Spirit of Christ was shown in a time of need.

J.R. Blakeney
Director of church programs
Baptist Association of Greater
New Orleans

Didn't miss the irony

Editor:

How ironic that the June 8 issue of **The Baptist Record**, which contained an article that quoted Mercer University historian Walter Shurden describing the process of "de-Baptistification" that has gone on in the Southern Baptist Convention since 1979, should also contain an article by Christian Life Commission PR man Bill Merrell proudly asserting that such "de-Baptistification" is now the official policy of the CLC.

Roger Williams, the founding father of the Baptist movement in America, had to flee Massachusetts to escape the religious coercion of the Puritan-dominated government of that colony. In founding Rhode Island, the Baptist Williams established the first beachhead of religious freedom in North America. As we fast forward to 1995, we find that a spiritual descendant of

Roger Williams named Lisa Herdahl has filed suit in Pontotoc County to stop the religious coercion sanctioned by the school board of that county and the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission has intervened in the suit not on the side of religious freedom represented by Herdahl, but on the side of government-sanctioned religious conformity represented by the school board. Roger Williams must be rolling over in his grave!

Moreover, they dare to wrap themselves in the rhetoric of religious freedom and the First Amendment while seeking to gut the protection of minority religious opinion from the tyranny of the majority which the First Amendment is designed to ensure. This 180-degree turn from Baptist heritage and principles would be laughable were it not so dangerous.

First Church, Pontotoc, pastor William Sims characterizes most of the letters received in opposition to the misnamed religious freedom crusade as "atheistic." I wonder what kind of Christianity is represented by the written and telephoned death threats and other sorts of intimidation that have been directed at Lisa Herdahl. Certainly not the kind I profess and preach. Is it any wonder that so many of us whose family backgrounds and places of spiritual formation are Southern Baptist have chosen to practice our faith and exercise our calls to ministry in other denominations since the process of "de-Baptistification" began in 1979?

M. Jonathan Altman
Lula

Kudos to secretary

Editor:

I have just read the article in the June 29 issue of **The Baptist Record** by Linda Jenkins, secretary of First Church, Yazoo City, titled "Please no more skin." Within the article it speaks about skimpy clothing and words on tee shirts.

I want to say, good for you. I agree with you.

Now people call me old fashioned. I admit it. I'm proud I am old fashioned. God is old fashioned. God never changes. But one day God is going to get enough of the way people are doing in church and outside the church. One day God will take over and stop all this nonsense himself. That will be a sad day for a lot of people. No one will argue with God.

But you can be saved now and live for God and he will take care of you. Are you ready?

Troy E. Leach Jr.
Blue Springs

Stick with the Word

Editor:

Religion came to this nation on the Mayflower and other ships. Men had their own opinions about religion and governments. Their beliefs and governing were interconnected.

The native people were

deceived by materialism. These men took control of the land and lives of these native people. After gaining control these men built schools. And, today, who owns the schools? Who owns the land? Who tells the people what to do and what not to do? The religion of the government of the "United" States controls the people. They tell us how to raise our children. Parents have no say in what their children are being taught.

I believe this "new age" movements started with Adam and Eve. Man would rather listen to someone else than listen to God. They are more willing to pick up newspapers, tabloids, "religious books," and read what others are saying than to pick up the Word of God and allow the Holy Spirit to work in each of us and do what God says do.

When man came here from other countries he brought with him his rebellion, his religions, and his beliefs. John Calvin, for instance, believed "men were born in sin totally depraved. Christ died to save (some) men from that sin, but God's atonement being limited, predestined some men, the elect, to be saved unto everlasting bliss and foreordained others to be damned unto everlasting punishment. The elect cannot resist this saving grace of God and will persevere in that state of grace until they reach the state of glory." Calvin's religion is for a few. Calvin is proven wrong in John 1:40-51 and simply stated in John 3:16-17. Today the precious presence of the Holy Spirit convicts, and if we accept Jesus as our own personal Savior we are the church. If we don't, we will receive God's wrath (John 3:31-36).

Man's way has produced thousands of religions over the ages. We will be judged by God's Word and our own deeds.

Charlotte P. Jenkins
Laurel

Isaiah had it right

Editor:

We Americans have so much to be thankful for on our Liberty Day, the 4th of July 1995. I am concerned about our lifestyle here in America. We have lost the spirit of the Lord due to our gross misconduct of the Lord's Day and his way of life.

I would like to point out these points: 1) violence in the home; 2) violence in the cinemas; 3) violence in the streets. Isaiah must have seen our day: "For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people; but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee" (Isa. 60:2). But our court and judge systems: "And judgement is turned away backward, and justice standeth afar off; for truth is fallen in the street and equity cannot enter" (Isa. 59:14).

Four corrupt and violent conditions of our world are drugs, sexual misconduct, hate, and sodomy.

H.C. Vest
Collins

Revival services at Jackson church tout Richardson ministry team

Woodland Hills Church, Jackson, has long been favored with good leadership.

Presently the church is without a full-time pastor, but not without pastoral leadership. James Richardson, veteran pastor of Leland and of First Church, Madison, serves as Woodland Hills' interim pastor.

The church's summer revival,



James Richardson

July 23-26, will be built on the theme, "A Celebration of Family." Service times will be: Sunday, July 23, 10:45 a.m. and 6 p.m.; and 7 nightly, Monday through Wednesday.

Guest preachers will be Jay Richardson, pastor of First Church, Greenville, and his twin brother Gary, pastor of First Church, West Point.



Jay Richardson

Their brother Ian, minister of music at First Church, Lake City, Fla., will direct the music for the revival.

James' wife Cissa will play the piano for special music during the revival.

This revival may be a first for the Magnolia State. This family — whose contribution to Baptist work in Mississippi is incalculable — in

one church indeed is a celebration.

"The church is excited," said James Richardson of Woodland Hills. "The church did this — I didn't plan it. God's family and the individual family go hand in hand."

Music will have a large part in the services. James was a music director in his early ministry. Jay served at Clinton's Morrison



Ian Richardson

Heights Church; Gary sang in the choir of Broadmoor Church, Jackson; and Ian served at First Church, Jackson.

The ministries of all these Richardson family members will be pulled together in a "celebration of family" led by a unique family.

For more information, call the church at (601) 981-1441. — GH

Revival Dates

Midway (Newton): July 23-26; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7:30 p.m.; Gus Merritt, evangelist; Marion Felton, music; Wayne Miley, pastor.

Branch, Morton: July 23-26; Sunday, 11 a.m., noon meal, and 1:15 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7:30 p.m.; Jim Sanders, Forest, evangelist; Norman Huggins, music; James E. Watts, pastor.

Holly Springs, Foxworth: July 23-28; Sunday, 11 a.m., covered dish lunch, and 1:30 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; David Green, Cedar Grove, evangelist; Dudley Williamson, Society Hill, music.

Vacation Bible Schools

Day Star, Florence: July 24-28; 6:30-9 p.m.; Wed., Joyful the Clown, 6:45-8:45 p.m.; for more information, (601) 932-4134; Loyd Wilson, pastor.



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Just for the Record



Academy Church, Blue Mountain, held its first GA Recognition Service on April 30. Pictured, front row, are Kaycie Medlin, Erika Smithey, Wendy Smithey; second row, Jennifer McAlister, Kayla Frazier, Ashley Medlin, Meagan Cook, Jennifer Medlin, Jennifer Akins,

Megan Dianna; third row, Annette Walker, director, Amanda Blackard, Lorie Goudelock, Heather Cook, Candice Frazier, Amy Graves, Christie Nance, Tammy Nance, and Cathy McAlister, leader.



Melrose Church, Yazoo Association, recently celebrated the retirement of the indebtedness on its new fellowship hall with a special service dedicating the hall in memory of Robert Kates. Pictured, from left, are James Smith, pastor; Katie Kates, treasurer; Lloyd Passons, deacon and trustee; and Phillip Thomas, trustee.



Handsboro Church, Gulfport, celebrated the dedication and groundbreaking of a new staff residence which will house its future youth director. Pictured is most of the youth group of the church along with Bill Whitfield, current interim director.

First Church, Laurel, will sponsor an Oct. 18-21 "fall fling" to Branson, Mo. The trip will include a cruise on Table Rock Lake, shows by Glen Campbell, Dino, and Tony Orlando, and a lunch show of "Pumpboys and Dinettes." Cost is \$395 based on double occupancy, and includes lodging, tickets, and some meals.

Pick up locations will be in Laurel, Jackson, and Vicksburg. A \$150 deposit by Aug. 9 will hold a reservation. For more information, call Ronney Joe or Joy at the church, (601) 649-5710.

Cason Church, Nettleton, will celebrate its 50th anniversary on July 30. Jim Harrington, director

Staff Changes

Oak Forest Church, Jackson, has called **Richard Bradley** as pastor effective May 28. Bradley is a graduate of New Orleans Seminary. His previous place of service was Handsboro Church, Gulfport.

Ebenezer Church, Bassfield, has called **Donald R. Weber** as pastor effective June 5. A native of

McComb, he received his education at Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary. His previous place of service was Salem Church, Kemper Association.

Carlton Jones resigned as interim pastor at Rocky Point Church, Leake County, due to health problems.



First Church, Lucedale, recently held its GA Recognition Service with the theme "The Language of Love." Pictured, from left, are Taylor Havard, Megan Scott, Jesse Starr, Whitney Martin, Brittany Bailey, Stephanie Schultz, Lindsey Gardner, Cassie Noblitt; back row, Jennifer Williams, Rachel Wilson, Lindsay Cowart, Shelly Martin. The leaders are Vickie Starr, Jill Dunn, Dana Parker, Rosemary Roberts, Joy Cadwell, Debbie Brannan. Peggy Curd is GA director.

of missions for Monroe Association, will be the guest speaker for the 11 a.m. worship service. A covered dish dinner will be served in fellowship hall following morning services. Jim Manley is pastor.

William Carey College and Stringer High School recently were notified that their partnership received a "seed grant" from Apple Computer in California. The grant brings equipment worth approximately \$30,000 to the campuses of the schools. The new equipment is to be used in an ongoing cooperative research project which documents the effects of training teachers, designing curricula, and exposing students to computer-supported instruction in today's classrooms.

Greg Buchanan, harpist, will be in concert at North Greenwood Church, Greenwood, on July 23 at 7 p.m. Admission is free; a love offering will be taken. For more information, contact Jeff Chamblee at (601) 453-2801.

The Cathedrals gospel music group will perform in "Two Great Evenings" — on Aug. 3 at Briarcrest Christian School in Memphis, 7:30 p.m.; and Aug. 4 at Word of Faith Tabernacle in New Orleans, 7:30 p.m. For more information, call Floyd Kennedy at (800) 458-6514.

The 1995 Scarborough Institute Worship Conference will be held Sept. 25-27 at Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. The annual conference will feature John Piper of Minneapolis, Minn., and Robert Webber of Wheaton, Ill. Registration fee is \$90. For more information call (817) 923-1921.

Juniper Grove Church, Poplarville, will celebrate its 140th anniversary on Aug. 13.

Leon Dunn, Hammond, La., will be the speaker. The church is attempting to locate items of interest relating to its history. Mail information to 289 Juniper Grove Rd., Poplarville MS 39470 or contact the church office at (601) 795-8886 or 795-0248.

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Revival Dates

Pilgrim Rest, Crystal Springs: July 30-Aug. 4; 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; James E. Messer Sr., evangelist; James Beasley, Crystal Springs, music; T.P. Buskin, pastor.

Cash (Scott): July 23-28; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7:30 p.m.; Hill Family Ministries, evangelist team; Bob Smith, pastor.

Indian Springs (Perry): July 23-28; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:45 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Ken Regan, Laurel, evangelist; Todd Vance, Laurel, music; Floyd Seymour, pastor.

Calvary, Columbus: July 23-27; Sunday, 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 12:15 and 7 p.m.; Wayne Sanders, Noxapater, evangelist; Jerome Key, Columbus, music; Roy D. Hawkins, pastor.

Carson Ridge, Ethel: July 23-28; 7 p.m.; Carl Morris, Calhoun, evangelist; Alma Riley, Carson Ridge, music; Linda Simmons, Ethel, pianist; Donald Riley, pastor.

New Sardis, Mt. Olive: July 23-28; 7 p.m.; John McCall, Clinton, evangelist; Kevin Bishop, music; Charles Guy, pastor.

Mt. Zion (Simpson): July 24-28; 7:30 p.m.; Max Jones, evangelist; Bob Harris, music; Joel Eavenson, pastor.

East-Union, Magnolia: July 30-Aug. 2; Harold Gartman,

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Pricedale, evangelist; Brad and Joy Johnson, Wesson, music; Earl Surber, pastor.

Pineview, Hattiesburg: July 23-26; 7 p.m.; Larry Robertson, evangelist; John and Lisa McDaniel, music; Mon., children's night and Tues., youth night, 6 p.m. with free pizza; Bobby Shurden, pastor.

Tyro (Northwest): July 23-26; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. nightly; Eddie Prince, evangelist; Gary Newton, pastor.

Ruth (Lincoln): July 23-27; Sunday, Sunday School, 10 a.m., worship, 11 a.m., lunch, and afternoon service; Mon.-Thurs., 7:30 p.m.; Billy Shackleford, Horn Lake, preaching; Johnny Watts, music; Jean Thompson, organ; Jimmy Houston, pastor.

Hillsboro (Scott): July 23-26; Sunday, 10 a.m., 11 a.m., lunch, and 6:45 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Randall Creel, evangelist; Lesa Mart, music; Carey E. Bass, pastor.

New Hope, Tupelo: July 30-Aug. 2; Sunday, 6:45 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Jim Futral, Jackson, evangelist; Paul Reed, Tupelo, music; Lowell Johnson, pastor.

First, Raleigh: Aug. 6-9; Sunday, homecoming, 11 a.m. and lunch served in fellowship hall, Jon Doler, former pastor, guest speaker; revival services, 7 p.m. nightly; James P. Fancher, Jackson, evangelist; Larry Black, Jackson, music; Jerry Sullivan, pastor.

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Thursday, July 20, 1995

Names in the News



John Dorrill was licensed to the gospel ministry on June 11 by First Church, Kosciusko. Barry C. Corbett, pastor of First Church, is pictured with Dorrill.



Seven members of Gillsburg Church, Gillsburg, are participating in foreign and home missions this summer. They are (from left) Gray Harvey, Bryan Tyndall, Tyrone Harrell, Chris Stewart, Brenda Wilson, Larry Stewart, and (not pictured) Walter Carpenter. Tyndall and Harvey are ministering in Romania. Wilson will serve on a medical team in Honduras. Harrell, Larry Stewart, Chris Stewart, and Walter Carpenter will help construct a church in Ringgold, Ga.



Batesville pastor Cleophus Rawls and wife Ethel were appointed in June by the Home Mission Board's executive committee to be home missionaries to Illinois. Rawls, 58, will serve as director of black church starting for the Metro-East Baptist Association in East St. Louis. Since 1991, Rawls has served as pastor of West Batesville Church. He has also pastored churches in Georgia and Alabama.



Jonathan Baker (right) was licensed to the gospel ministry by West Ripley Church, Ripley, on May 21. He is a student at Northeast Mississippi Community College, Booneville. His father, Billy W. Baker (left), is pastor of West Ripley Church.



Barbara Kleis, member of First Church, Cleveland, was the winner of the Bible scholarship drill conducted on April 29 at Alta Woods Church, Jackson. One has to be in Bible drills for nine years to participate in the scholarship drill, provided annually by the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department and the Mississippi

Baptist college of the student's choice. Kleis will attend Mississippi College this fall to pursue a nursing degree. Her parents are Walter and Myra Kleis of Boyle.

Jerry W. Stevens, former director of missions for Winston Association for 12 years, is now a resident of Cedars Health Center at Traceway Retirement Community, 2800 W. Main, Tupelo. The progression of Parkinson's Disease forced him into early retirement. Churches he pastored include Midway, Pontotoc County; First, Nicholson; and Calvary, Lowndes County.

Tom Delaughter, retired professor of New Orleans Seminary, and **Charles Melton**, retired professor of Clarke College, were recently named "Mr. Inspiration



Kleis

1995" by the television ministry of First Church, Carriere. Each professor received a trophy. The event marked the 25th anniversary of the television ministry on Channel 13 from Biloxi. The "Mr. Inspiration" program started in 1986 when the pastor's son William Gary Smith Jr., by a miracle, started walking again after being paralyzed from his waist down.

John M. Adams, pastor of First Church, Shallowater, Texas, will speak on Aug. 16 via the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center HealthNet (a satellite communication program provided by HealthNet, Lubbock, Texas). Adams is a native of Canton and a graduate of Benton High School, Yazoo City. For more information, call HealthNet at (806) 743-1500.

Barry K. Bounds has been employed as director of Computer Services at Mississippi College. He goes from the Mississippi Division of Medicaid, where he served as systems analyst. Bounds, a graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi, is a deacon at Broadmoor Church, Jackson.



Bounds

Homecomings

Antioch, Brandon: July 23; services, 11 a.m., covered dish in fellowship hall; Marion Spence, pastor, speaker; Donnie and Cynthia Stuart, Pelahatchie, music.

First, Vancleave: July 23; Randy Davis, former pastor, guest speaker for morning services; Davis family recognition, 11 a.m. service; dinner on the grounds; Greg Potts, pastor.

Mt. Zion (Simpson): July 23; 10:30 a.m.; Gerald Aultman, former pastor, guest speaker; lunch in fellowship hall; 1 p.m. service.

Darren Wington, speaker; Joel Eavenson, pastor.

Springdale, West: July 29-30; Sat., afternoon singing and meal, 4-6 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m., covered dish in fellowship hall; The Howards, Kosciusko, guest singers; Tim H. Weisheim, pastor.

Wade (Jackson): Aug. 6; 10:30 a.m.; covered dish in fellowship hall; 1 p.m. singing; Ernest Goff, Hattiesburg, licensed to preach by Wade Church in 1950 while at Clarke College, guest speaker; W.L. "Bill" Barton, pastor.

Uniform Undeserved love



By Andy Brasher
Hosea 11

There is a general principle to which I ascribe: "If love is to be experienced, it must first be accepted." The statement is unequivocally true. A relationship can only exist when two people or parties choose to jointly experience and reciprocate love. This is especially true in marriage.

Hosea and Gomer illustrate this point, and subsequently reflect God's love and spiritual relationship with Israel. The difficulty arises when a people or anyone chooses to reject God's undeserved love for them. Hosea uniquely captures God's divine love for Israel when he writes, "I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely: for mine anger is turned away from him" (14:4).

The message presented in this verse could easily be applied to individual sinners and saints alike — even to you!

God's call and care for Israel (vv. 1-4). Simply put, Israel was God's child, a child that God so loved. There is no reasonable explanation except God chose to bestow his love and favor upon them. Why? We don't know. As bewildering as this may first seem, John 3:16 states, "For God so loved the world...." Why? Again, we don't know.

Yet, unlike apostate Israel, we should graciously accept and respond to God's offer to love us. Often, within Hosea, God calls attention to the great exodus from Egypt where he acted to rescue Israel. How often has he rescued us, and we in return repaid him with rebellion? This is precisely what Israel was doing to God. The passage continues with God illustrating unmatched mercy and compassion toward Israel, even when they were repudiating him all the more.

The question surfaces: how could God love a people who are so unworthy and apathetic to receive his love? For the third time the answer is we don't know, but I'm sure glad he does!

Israel's rebellion rehearsed (vv. 5-7). This passage indicates that Israel would become a conquered nation at the hands of the Assyrian Empire. The word "sword" is symbolic of war and battle. The picture that Hosea paints is one where the cities of Israel are ravaged by war. The reason for Israel's overwhelming defeat centers on their disobedience and rejection of God. They have no one to blame but themselves for their demise. Note that God's mercy is no longer extended to those who make rejection and disobedience common practice. In other words, God gives us all ample time to repent!

God's compassion and call to loyalty (vv. 8-12). Like Hosea who could not abandon his wife even when she had left him for other lovers and ended up on the slave block, God in his infinite love couldn't abandon Israel to their well-deserved fate of annihilation. God calls attention to the cities of Admah and Zeboiim, which were two of the five cities of the plain (Gen. 14:8) that were utterly destroyed with Sodom and Gomorrah.

Contrary to God's judgment on the cities of the plain, Israel's destruction would not be in the same manner. Where a human being might carry out total destruction based on the simple premise of revenge, God will not do so (v. 9). God first and foremost is holy and acts accordingly. However, in the midst of divine judgment, God provides a blessed return from exile to the land of promise to all who would embrace and hear him. Hosea uses the symbolism of God as a roaring lion calling her wayward cubs back home.

It would be prudent for sinner and saint alike to listen to the roar of a loving God and follow his voice home.

Brasher is pastor of Como Church, Como.

Bible Book Understanding judgment



By Larry McDonald
Ezekiel 18

Daniel Webster, the American statesman who lived over a century ago, was unusually quiet one evening in a gathering of friends. Finally, someone asked Webster a question in an attempt to draw him out of his silence. The friend inquired of Webster, "What is the most important thought which has ever crossed your mind?"

The great man replied, "The thought of my own personal accountability before God."

Many of the Jews in exile with Ezekiel had a false understanding of God's judgment. They had a belief in corporate solidarity of judgment perhaps based falsely upon Exodus 20:5 and 34:7.

Ezekiel spoke to them about the principle of individual responsibility (18:4). He wanted them to know that "The soul who sins is the one who will die" (18:4b). In this context, the word "soul" is best understood as "life" or "person." In other words, there is a personal accountability before God.

With this personal accountability came a call to righteous living (vv. 5-9). Ezekiel gave five principles that characterize the life of this kind of person. The first was the general principle that they do what is just and right (v. 5).

The second was the righteous person worships Yahweh alone as the true God (v. 6a).

The third was the righteous person carefully guards and maintains marital fidelity and moral purity (v. 6b).

Fourth, the righteous person is a good neighbor (vv. 7-8).

The last principle summarizes the others: the righteous person respects and observes divine and human law (v. 9). Ezekiel declared that the man who followed these principles was righteous and would live (v. 9).

What about the unrighteous? Are they destined only for God's judgment? Is there any hope for them? Ezekiel answers by saying the unrighteous can become righteous (vv. 20-22).

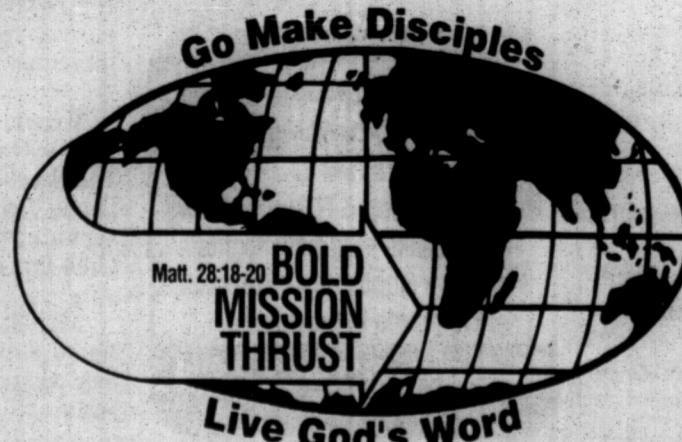
How can they become righteous? By true repentance based upon faith! This true repentance based upon faith involves a confession and a sorrow for sin. It involves a turning from sin and turning to God for cleansing. It involves a restoration to God as a person commits himself to obey God. When this commitment takes place, Ezekiel declared that none of this person's offenses would be remembered and he would live (v. 22).

In concluding this chapter, Ezekiel delivered God's invitation (vv. 30-32). God desires to deliver, but he will bring judgment if necessary. His call was for people to cease their faithlessness, turn to God, and be delivered.

This invitation is still open today. If you do not have a personal relationship with God, he is calling you to "repent and live" (v. 32).

"Live and let live" is a popular slogan by which people live. The Epicurean philosophy of "eat, drink, and be merry for tomorrow I may die" is still the fundamental thought of many people. Both of these philosophies neglect the truth that we will have to answer for our actions. In considering your lifestyle, have you thought about your personal accountability to God?

McDonald is pastor of Castlewoods Church, Brandon.



Life and Work New life in Christ



By Bob Rogers
Colossians 2

Most Baptists know that we are saved by grace through faith, but did you know that we also continue to live the Christian life the same way?

Continue in Christ (vv. 6-7). Paul says that "just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him" (v. 6). Faith in Christ is not just a ticket to heaven; it is a way of life. Too often we will trust Christ to save us, but then we say, "Thanks, Jesus, I can take it from here," and we refuse to trust Christ to live through us day by day.

Verse 7 says we are "rooted and built up in him." This pictures the Christian life like a tree: Grace is the root of salvation, and good works are the fruit of salvation.

Beware of deception (vv. 8-9). Paul warns us not to be taken "captive" through human philosophy and tradition "and the basic principles of this world" rather than Christ (1:8). Then as today, there are many religious ideas and philosophies waiting to entice us away from the way of Christ.

"Principles" (NIV), "rudiments" (KJV), or "elemental spirits" (NRSV) translate the Greek word *stoicheia*. Many scholars identify the *stoicheia* with the Greek philosophy infiltrating the church called gnosticism. Gnostics taught the *stoicheia* were a hierarchy of supernatural beings between humans and God, and that a person had to have secret "knowledge," or *gnosis*, in order to make it through all these spirits to God. This system of supernatural beings was called the "fullness."

Paul exposed the error of gnosticism in verse 9, saying, "For in Christ the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form." Paul was saying, "Christ is completely God — you don't need to go through anybody else."

Eugene H. Peterson put it this way: "You don't need a telescope, a microscope, or a horoscope to realize the fullness of Christ, and the emptiness of the universe without him" (*The Message: The New Testament in Contemporary Language*, p. 499).

Look at your new life (vv. 10-15). In verses 10-15, Paul parades a series of pictures before our eyes to illustrate what the new life in Christ is like.

Verse 11 paints a picture of spiritual circumcision. Circumcision made Jews distinct, a people marked as belonging to God. By "putting off the sinful nature" (literally, "flesh," a pun on cutting the flesh in circumcision), Christians are marked as followers of Christ.

Verses 12-13a paint a picture of new life in baptism. The believer is dipped in the water and brought up again, in a symbol of faith in Jesus' burial and resurrection, and also a symbol of the believer's rejection of the dead end life of sin and his acceptance of God's power to be "made... alive with Christ."

Verses 13b-14 paint a picture of canceled debt. In Christ, God has forgiven our sins and set us free from legalism, "nailing it to the cross." These vivid words call to mind the sign nailed to the cross over Jesus' head (John 19:19).

Verse 15 paints a picture of a victory parade. "Powers and authorities," which may refer to Satan or to the Gnostic idea of supernatural beings, or both, are disarmed and publicly shown to be false by the cross.

Application activity: Make a list of major religions and philosophies. Which ones are "hollow and deceptive," especially in light of verse 9?

Rogers is pastor of First Church, Poplarville.

THE VILLAGE VIEW

The Baptist Children's Village



Ronny E. Robinson, Executive Director
P.O. Box 27,
Clinton, MS 39060-0027
(601) 922-2242



Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of **The Village View** is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

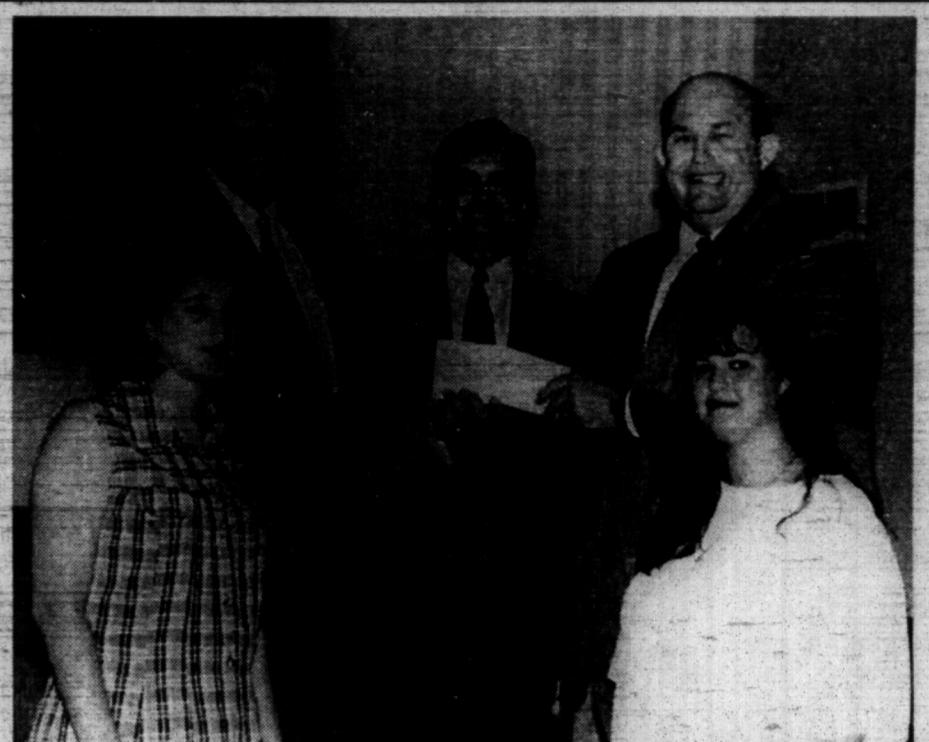
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MEMORIALS

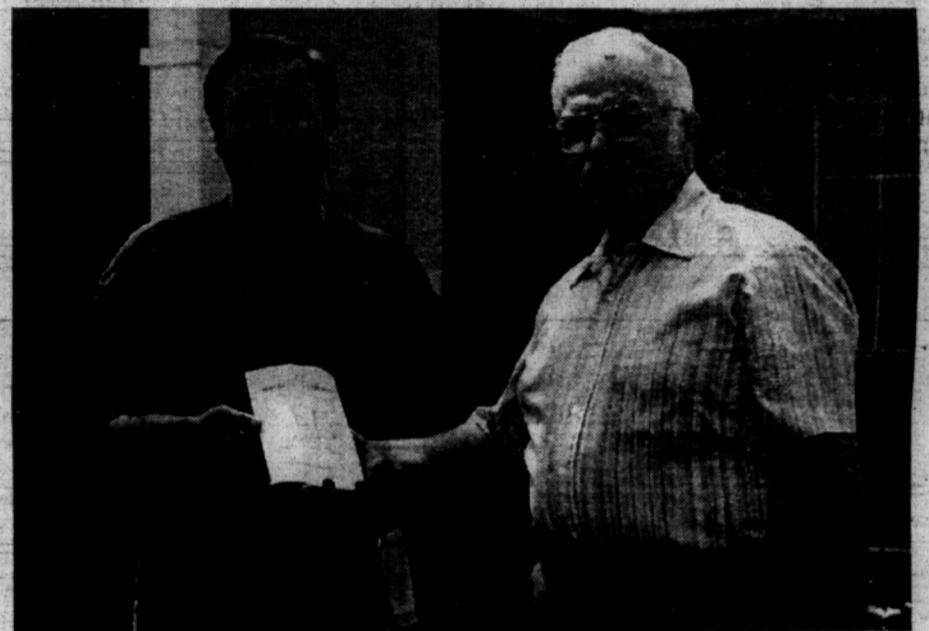
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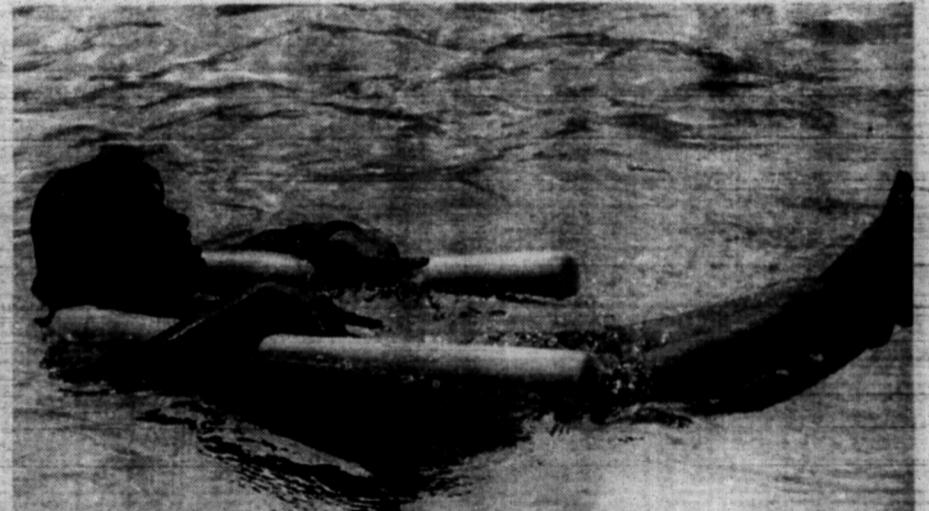
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Mr. Joe J. Tuccio, Sr.



Calvary Church, Waynesboro, challenges other Southern Baptist churches in Mississippi to operate The Baptist Children's Village for one day. Ronny Robinson, Executive Director, accepts a check from Arthur Lee Nored, chairman of deacons, for \$7,100. Pictured (left to right) are Beth McQueen, Nored, pastor Doug Broome, Robinson, and Jessica Sykes.



Charles Marx of Hattiesburg, author of the "Bibliocipher" puzzles in *The Baptist Record*, presents Bobby Thame of the BCV staff with a copy of his publication containing 55 Bibliocipher puzzles. Mr. Marx hopes copies of this book will help The Village gain support for its ministries to children.



Jessica and other BCV young people beat the heat at the pool!

Hinds Hunting Club
Sister of Coly McCarley
Mrs. Chester (Irene) Williams
Billy McCoy
Mr. & Mrs. James Lynn Tisdale
Mr. George McCoy
Tinsley Baptist Church
Duncan McCraney
Mrs. Joyce M. Goetzmann
Mrs. Ola McCrary
Jacqueline Green
Mrs. Doris McDaniel
Mrs. Henrietta Carpenter

Marvel Higdon McKee
Dr. & Mrs. Carl Bozeman
Mrs. Betty Taylor
Jim McKnight
Mr. & Mrs. Leroy Thomas
William McManus
Mrs. Helen Cannon
Mrs. Helen McMillian
Mr. & Mrs. J. W. Carter
Mr. Emmett McMurry
Mr. & Mrs. Curtis Buchanan
& Ms. Linda McGuire
Mrs. Carlton Edmondson

(to be continued)

Blue Mountain College BSU shares Christ on the Coast

By Tracy Moser

This trip was special from the very beginning, I thought to myself.

Having been through the **Experiencing God** study and led several groups through it, I decided I needed to live by what I was teaching. One of the study's prin-

ciples is to recognize where God is working and join him.

A group of students and I were praying God would show us where he wanted us to join him in his work. This happened at our State Student Conference in Jackson when Dottie Williamson, one of



Ginger Stalls of Memphis, a member of the Blue Mountain College Baptist Student Union (BSU), poses with children who live in a housing community on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. The children completed scroll projects for a Backyard Bible Club which Stalls and fellow BSUers helped conduct under the direction of home missionary Dottie Williamson.



LifeAnswers

Ron Mumbower, Ph.D.
Minister of Counseling
First Church, Jackson

How much stock should I put in dreams? I sometimes have dreams that are hard to ignore, and I wonder if they contain warnings or messages from the Lord.

Dreams usually give voice to something we would not outwardly think or utter. Dreams come from our imagination and have a way of releasing tension (fear, anger, insecurity, etc.) while we sleep. The nightmare after a horror movie or a dream about an event that troubled you may indicate that you have not talked about, or dealt with, the issue at hand. Are you receiving warnings and messages from God? Compare that idea to the person, character, and spirit of God we see in Scripture. Test such ideas and discern if they match Scripture. Ask other people whom you respect, get their opinions, and ask them to join you in prayer about this matter. Write down your dreams and search for common meanings in your life and circumstances. Lastly, be still and listen for what God has to say to you about this.

My niece is pregnant and unmarried. Her father (my brother) encouraged her to have an abortion, but thankfully she refused. How can I help her through this without giving the impression I believe her lifestyle is acceptable?

The reality of her sin is "ever before her," so she doesn't need judgment. Now is the time for you to be there for her with unconditional love. Let her know that you love her despite her mistake because of what God has done for you. She should see God radiating from you in such a way that she will want to imitate your faith. Faith in action speaks louder than judgment. If she asks your opinion, don't shy away from answering truthfully. You can teach her where you stand on this issue, yet still be there when she needs you. Send her cards and books that speak to such topics as obedience, doing the right thing, and God's assurance that he will never leave her. You can be the love of God "with skin on!"

Send your counseling questions to **LifeAnswers** c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.

the speakers, told of her work in housing communities. She made the comment that she could use college students to help her.

It became clear to me and some of the students that we needed to join "Miss Dottie." It was at this point that plans were made to go during spring break and work in various places along the coast of Mississippi.

God moved in ways beyond our expectations or imaginations. One of the things that was most exciting about the trip was an event that could happen only of God's design.

Bob Storie, who is in charge of both the Trucker's and Seamen's ministries in Pascagoula, took a small group of students to visit a Russian ship in port. While there, he asked if he could bring back the entire group.

The captain agreed. He allowed the students to board the ship two consecutive nights. One of our Blue Mountain College students, Victor Roudkovski from Kazakhstan, was able to share Christ with the sailors in their native tongue.

He presented the gospel the first evening and shared his testimony the next. He also interpreted another student's testimony and songs that the team sang for the group of sailors gathered in the dining hall.

During our second evening with the sailors Victor answered the sailors' questions for hours. It was an incredible experience and one we were confident that God had intended.

The men on the team stayed in the Trucker's Ministry Center. All the students had the opportunity to talk with travelers and truckers who came through the center as they ate their meals there each day. Several of the students had opportunities to share their faith with those who visited the center. One student, Nicole Lawson, was able to use her Spanish-speaking skills to share Christ.

The team of 15 students led Backyard Bible Clubs each morning involving 83 children in two housing communities where "Miss Dottie" hopes to establish an ongoing ministry.

Our group led a Big A Club one afternoon with 58 children,



The 1995 spring break mission team of the Blue Mountain College Baptist Student Union traveled to the Mississippi Gulf Coast to conduct Backyard Bible Clubs in housing communities, work at the Trucker's and Seamen's ministries, and lead worship services in area churches.

and participated with a local church in its feeding program in a housing community.

The team also led a nursing home service, sang in the Sunday evening service at Commission Road Church, and led the Wednesday night service at Escatawpa Church. Various cleaning assignments were done, as well, at the Trucker's Ministry and at the future Seamen's Center in Pascagoula.

It was good to stay within our state and do mission work. Sometimes we decide we must go far away when there is mission work to be done in our own backyard.

Anthony Williams, one of the team members, remarked that "the Lord taught me that he has a plan

to reach all people. He showed me how those who are willing to go will be used to demonstrate his love, grace, and mercy."

Team members were: Jennifer Brock, Mount Pleasant; Danny Forrest, Brookhaven; Leigh Ann Iskra, Canada; Christy Kirkendoll, Memphis; Nicole Lawson, Memphis; Julia Massey, Water Valley; Mandy McNeil, Red Bay, Ala.; Shannon Naylor, Memphis; Shannon Phillips, Savannah, Tenn.; Victor Roudkovski, Kazakhstan; Jeremy Smith, Southaven; Ginger Stalls, Memphis; Becky Suggs, Ramer, Tenn.; Tracy Webb, Oxford; Anthony Williams, Houston; and Jack and Tracy Moser, Blue Mountain.

Moser is BSU director, Blue

WMU sets grant deadline

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) — Woman's Missionary Union is now accepting applications for Second Century Fund grants. Applications will be accepted through Oct. 1.

The Second Century Fund is an endowment fund begun in 1988 as a gift to future generations of women in missions.

All contributions are invested permanently with only the interest given annually as grants.

Grants are awarded in three categories: to develop missions organizations abroad; to enhance WMU leadership development in

the United States; and to foster education about missions and WMU among Southern Baptist seminary faculty and students.

To date, 142 grants totaling \$415,523 have been awarded to individuals and organizations.

Grant applications are available from Second Century Fund, Woman's Missionary Union, P.O. Box 830010, Birmingham, AL 35283-0010.

Baptist Record
291 7-20
SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL SO 00
901 COMMERCE ST SUITE 401
NASHVILLE TN 37203
005-DTM
Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx
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OPVMV ZH OPVMVXJMV AJG AJ IJAYVBAATOZJA
OJ OPVB GPZIP TMV ZA IPMZHO FVHNH, GPJ
GTUR AJO TXOVN OPV XUVHP, LNO TXOVN OPV
HEZMZO.

MJBTAH VZCPO: JAV

This week's clue: P equals H.

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Acts Four: Twelve.